MINUTES

Ordinary Council Meeting

17 February 2026

Unconfirmed

MINUTES OF TORRES SHIRE COUNCIL ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, THURSDAY ISLAND ON TUESDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2026

1 AGENDA CONTENTS

2 ATTENDANCE

Cr Elsie Seriat (Mayor), Cr Toshio Nakata (Deputy Mayor), Cr Gabriel Bani, Cr Thomas Loban, Cr Thomas Fujii (Jnr), Mary Bani (Chief Executive Officer), Edward Kulpa (Director Projects, Planning and Environment), Roger Naidoo (Director Engineering and Infrastructure Services), Karren MacClure (Director Corporate and Community Services), Kimberley Yorkston (Executive Secretary) and Isabella Muhamad-Mosby (A/Executive Secretary).

3 MEETING OPENED

The meeting opened with a prayer by Mayor Elsie Seriat at 9:07 am.

4 APOLOGIES

Cr Gabriel Bani
Cr Thomas Fujii

RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/2/1
Moved: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata
Seconded: Cr Thomas Loban

That Council receive the apology from Cr Gabriel Bani and Cr Thomas Fujii.

CARRIED

PUBLIC GALLERY

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School, Staff & Students 9:07am – 9.25am

5 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

On behalf of all Councillors, the Mayor acknowledged the Kaurareg people, Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet today, and paid respects to their Elders past, present and emerging and the Traditional Owners of Zenadth Kes.

6 CONDOLENCES

A minute's silence was observed as a mark of respect in memory of a deceased person or persons of our community and/or area of the Torres Strait.

Mr Ronald Nakata

Unconfirmed

7 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil

8 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

8.1 ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING – 27 JANUARY 2026

RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/2/2
Moved: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata
Seconded: Mayor Elsie Seriat

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 27 January 2026 be confirmed.

CARRIED

8.2 SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING – 2 FEBRUARY 2026

RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/2/3
Moved: Mayor Elsie Seriat
Seconded: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata

That the minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 2 February 2026 be confirmed.

CARRIED

9 BUSINESS ARISING

CEO referred to the 'Matters for Action following a Council Meeting' document provided to Councillors with updated information on the 27 January 2026 Council Meeting.

10 NOTIFIED MOTIONS

Nil

11 COUNCILLORS REPORTS

11.1 COUNCILLOR'S MONTHLY REPORTS

RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/2/4
Moved: Cr Thomas Loban
Seconded: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata

That the activities contained in the Mayoral monthly report be endorsed by Council.

CARRIED

Unconfirmed

12 EXECUTIVE SERVICES REPORTS

12.1 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MONTHLY REPORT

RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/2/5
Moved: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata
Seconded: Cr Thomas Loban

That the activities contained in the Chief Executive Officer's monthly report be endorsed by Council.

CARRIED

ATTENDANCE: Dorene Riley (Finance Manager) joined the Council Meeting at 9.59am to present Item 12.2 - Corporate and Community Services Financial Report.

12.2 CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES – FINANCIAL REPORT

RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/2/6
Moved: Cr Thomas Loban
Seconded: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata

That Council:

- Note the Financial Report for the period ended January 2026 as presented.
- Note the attachments for the period ended January 2026 listed as follows:
  1. Cash Position January 2026
  2. Income and Expenditure Airport January 2026
  3. Income and Expenditure all of Council January 2026
  4. Revenue Graph Actual vs Budget January 2026
  5. Expenses Graph Actual vs Budget January 2026
  6. Statement of Financial Position January 2026

CARRIED

DEPARTURE: Dorene Riley (Finance Manager) departed the Council Meeting at 10:25am.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting is adjourned for Morning Tea at 10:25am and resumed 10:49am.

Unconfirmed

12.3 CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/2/7
Moved: Mayor Elsie Seriat
Seconded: Cr Thomas Loban

That Council note the Corporate and Community Services Report for January 2026 as presented.

CARRIED

12.4 TORRES STRAIT NAIDOC AWARDS 2026

RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/2/8
Moved: Cr Thomas Loban
Seconded: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata

That Council note the 2026 Torres Strait NAIDOC Awards will be held on Friday, 17th July 2026, during National NAIDOC Week.

CARRIED

12.5 OPERATIONAL WORKS PROGRAM REPORT

RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/2/9
Moved: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata
Seconded: Cr Thomas Loban

That Council receives and notes the Operational Works Update Report for January 2026.

CARRIED

12.6 EXTENSION APPLICATION – DEVELOPMENT PERMIT FOR A MATERIAL CHANGE OF USE – ACCOMMODATION BUILDING – IDAS 17/11 – MATTHEW BIRNEY C/ URBAN SYNC PTY LTD – 138-140 DOUGLAS STREET, THURSDAY ISLAND

RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/2/10
Moved: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata
Seconded: Mayor Elsie Seriat

That Torres Shire Council approve the request to extend the currency period of the Development Permit for Material Change of Use – Accommodation Building (18 rooms) on land located at 138-140 Douglas Street, Thursday Island, formally described as Lot 1 on RP737855.

(a) A two (2) year extension of the currency period for Stage 1, with the approval lapsing on 23 February 2028.

CARRIED

Unconfirmed

12.7 CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM REPORT

RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/2/11
Moved: Mayor Elsie Seriat
Seconded: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata

That Council receives and notes the Capital Works Program Report for February 2026.

CARRIED

13 LATE ITEMS

Nil

14 CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

RECOMMENDATION

That Council consider the confidential report(s) listed below in a meeting closed to the public in accordance with Regulation s.254J of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*:

14.1 Consideration of Request for Road Reserve Purchase 2 Stephen Street, Thursday Island

Time: 11:57am
RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/2/12
Moved: Cr Thomas Loban
Seconded: Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata

That Council go into In Committee.

CARRIED

Time: 12:10pm
RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/2/13
Moved: Cr Thomas Loban
Seconded: Mayor Elsie Seriat

That Council come out of In Committee.

CARRIED

Unconfirmed

14.1 CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FOR ROAD RESERVE PURCHASE 2 STEPHEN STREET, THURSDAY ISLAND

RECOMMENDATION Min. 26/2/14
Moved: Cr Thomas Loban
Seconded: Mayor Elsie Seriat

It is recommended that Torres Shire Council again advises the Department of Housing and Public Works that:

1. It does not endorse the sale of road reserves to allow for lot expansion on Thursday Island,
2. Recommends to the Department of Housing and Public Works that it investigates opportunities for development on Horn Island, and
3. Delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer to make arrangements for representations to State and Commonwealth Ministers on reducing in-fill development on Thursday Island and discuss investment into planning and development on Horn Island.

CARRIED

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, 17 March 2026

CLOSURE: The meeting closed with a prayer by Mayor Elsie Seriat at 12:47pm.

Confirmed this day of

MAYOR

Unconfirmed